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AUTOMATED WEATHER DATA DISSEMINATION FEASIBILITY MODEL.(U)
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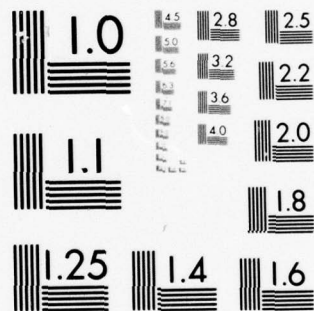
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MICROCOPY RESOLUTION TEST CHART
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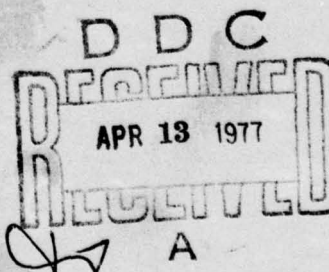
RADC-TR-76-332
In-house Report
February 1977



AUTOMATED WEATHER DATA DISSEMINATION FEASIBILITY MODEL

Captain Brian L. Masson, USAF

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20. ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number) This report describes a study conducted to determine the feasibility of developing an inexpensive microprocessor-based system to accept raw weather data from Air Force inventory sensors and process this data for display. A feasibility model was built at RADC with an Intel Model 8080 microprocessor and attempts were made to interface with the following sensors: the AN/GMQ-13 Rotating Beam Ceilometer, the AN/GMQ-10 Transmissometer, the AN/TMQ-11 Temperature/Dew Point Sensor, and the AN/GMQ-20 Wind Instrument. This report details the		

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design of the feasibility model and discusses the results of the study.

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April 1977

RADC-TR-76-332 dated February 1977

Title: AUTOMATED WEATHER DATA DISSEMINATION FEASIBILITY MODEL

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AUTOMATED WEATHER DATA DISSEMINATION FEASIBILITY MODEL

1.

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

The present method of disseminating and displaying terminal weather information on an Air Force base does not meet the Air Force's needs. This problem was recognized at the GEEIA Meteorological Conference in July 1968¹ and the Air Force's requirements for an Automated Terminal Weather Dissemination/Display System (ATWDDS) were detailed in AFCS ROC 7-69.

RADC has performed an in-house investigation of methods for automation and potential problems associated with automation. At this time it appears that recent developments in the areas of A/D conversion, digital communications, and data processing could result in a more versatile, cost-effective system than was previously thought possible. The purpose of this report is to outline the results of the study and to describe an ATWDDS feasibility model that has been designed by RADC.

2.

THE NEED FOR AUTOMATION;

THE PRESENT SYSTEM AND ITS DEFICIENCIES

The system configuration used for illustration, shown in figure 1, is in use today at Griffiss AFB NY. Configuration varies from base to base, but the Griffiss system can be considered representative. Data originates at sensors along the runway, which will be described in following paragraphs. There are identical sets of sensors on each end of the runway, all of which are cabled into the Remote Observation Site (ROS), which houses an indicator for each type of sensor. A switch in the ROS determines which set of sensors (one end of the runway or the other), is connected to the indicators. The ROS is linked to the outside world via a BAUDOT teletype circuit to Carswell AFB, and to the rest of the home base via an electrowriter net. An electrowriter system consists of a transmitter, which is a roll-paper writing tablet with an electrical output, and a receiver, which is an automatically driven roll-paper tablet. The transmitter and receiver are connected with telephone wire, and anything written on the transmitter is reproduced on the receiver. The Griffiss electrowriter net consists of transmitters at the ROS and Base Weather Station (BWS), and receivers at the BWS and 9 other locations such as the SAC command post and the control tower. Anything written on either transmitter is reproduced on all receivers. The system is used mainly to disseminate sensor data and observations from the ROS. The wind speed/direction sensor is also cabled into the BWS and 5 other locations via the ROS. Each of these locations has a wind speed/direction indicator identical to that at the ROS. The BWS is linked to Carswell AFB by approximately 4 BAUDOT teletype circuits. A closed circuit television system links the BWS with 13 locations on base, including command posts and pilots briefing rooms. Viewgraphs or charts placed before the camera at the

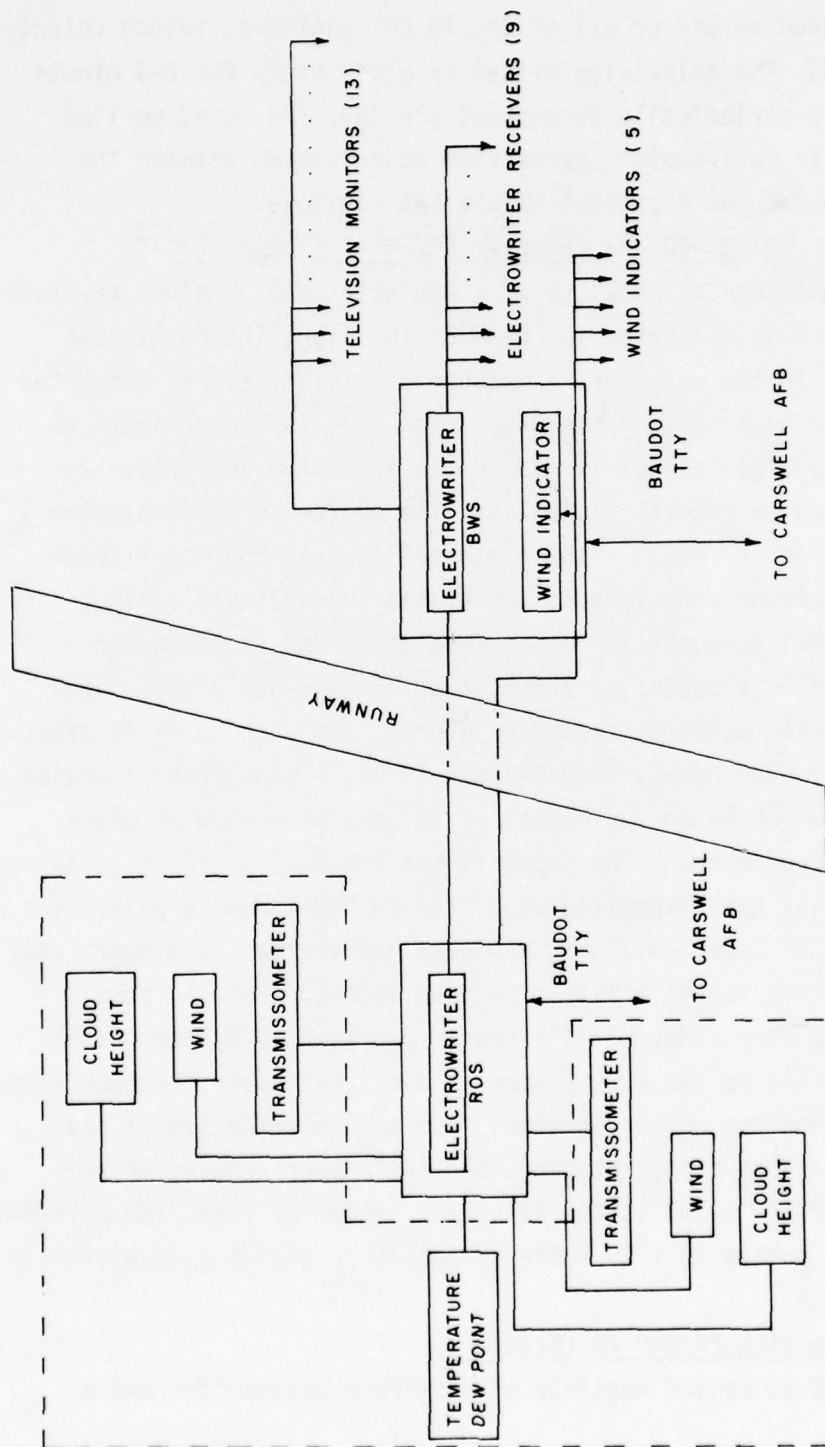


Figure 1

BWS are displayed on any or all of the 13 CRT monitors, switch selectable at the BWS. The television system is used mainly for 2-3 minute briefings given periodically throughout the day. The sound portion of the system is full-duplex, permitting conversation between the briefer at the BWS and personnel at the CRT monitors.

2.1 Transmissometer AN/GMQ-10 and Computer AN/FMN-1 (Figure 2)^{2,3}

The transmissometer consists of a projector and receiver separated by 500 feet, and an indicator in the ROS. The light intensity seen by a photocell in the receiver, a measure of visibility, is converted in the receiver to a pulse train whose frequency is proportional to light intensity. This signal is fed to the indicator and drives a meter calibrated in percent visibility. The system is calibrated by adjusting an iris in front of the photocell so that the meter reads close to 100 percent under conditions of near perfect visibility.

The AN/FMN-1 computer is not a computer in the accepted sense of the term. It is essentially a frequency counter and a mechanical look-up table with numbers printed on a drum. Its purpose is to translate visibility into Runway Visual Range (RVR), a non-linear function of visibility which is an indication of the maximum range at which runway lights can be seen. The input to the AN/FMN-1 is the same pulse train that drives the transmissometer. The AN/FMN-1 counts pulses for a fixed length of time, obtaining a binary number that is proportional to frequency, thus to visibility. The drum look-up table is then rotated, a step at a time, until a number represented by conductive material deposited on the drum (there is one such number for each step position) matches the number obtained from the incoming signal. At this point, the drum stops rotating, and the number showing in the window on the front panel is the RVR, in hundreds of feet. The AN/FMN-1 requires input pulses 15 ± 10 volts in amplitude and 35 ± 15 microseconds in width.

2.2 Wind Speed/Direction AN/GMQ-20 (Figure 3)⁴

The AN/GMQ-20 sensor consists of a synchro transmitter and a

TRANSMISSIONETER AN/GMQ-10

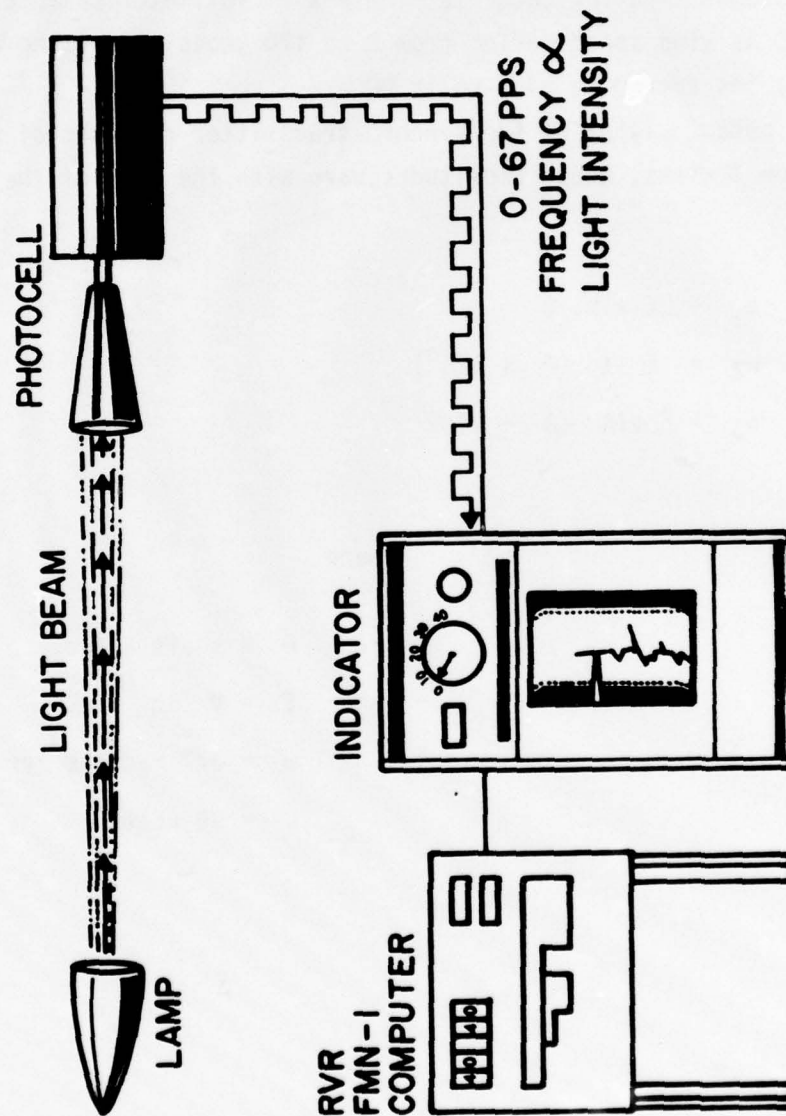


Figure 2

propeller-driven tachometer housed in a weather van.

The angular velocity of the propeller shaft, and in turn the DC voltage generated by the tachometer, is directly proportional to the wind speed. The indicator is simply a DC voltmeter calibrated in knots. As wind speed varies from 0 to 120 knots, the tachometer output varies from 0 to 14.7 volts DC.

The output signal of the synchro transmitter consists of 60 Hz signals on 3 wires, whose amplitudes vary with the sine of the shaft angle.

$$e_1 = E \sin \theta$$

$$e_2 = E \sin (\theta + 120^\circ)$$

$$e_3 = E \sin (\theta + 240^\circ)$$

where

$$\theta = \text{shaft angle}$$

$$E = V \sin \omega t$$

$$\omega = 377 \text{ radians per second}$$

$$V = 90 \text{ volts}$$

WIND SPEED / DIRECTION AN/GMQ - 20

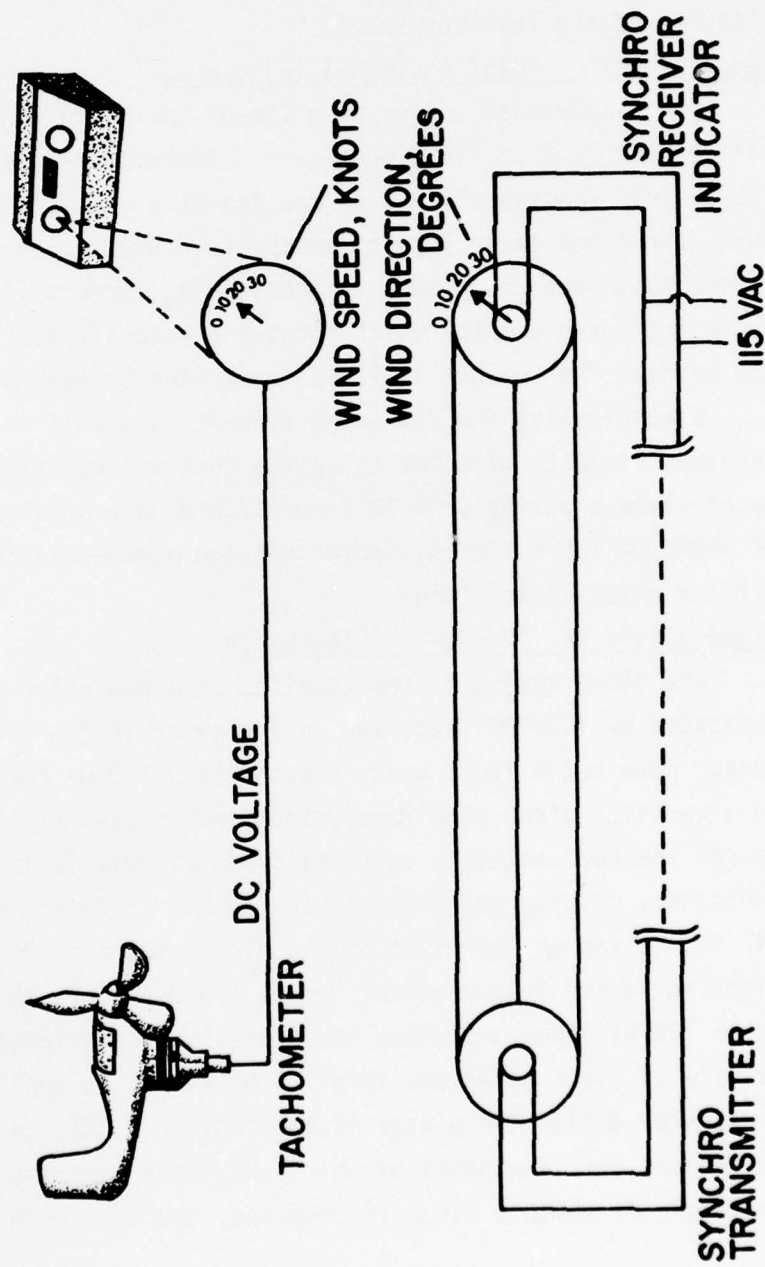


Figure 3

The synchro receiver is a unit similar to the transmitter, whose shaft is forced by the 60 Hz signals on the three lines to assume the same angular position as the transmitter shaft. The readout is a pointer attached to the receiver shaft.

2.3 Temperature/Dew Point AN/TMQ-11 (Figure 4) ⁵

The temperature sensor is a linear thermistor whose resistance varies from 77.6 to 119.6 ohms over a temperature range of -80°F to 130°F. This sensing element is one leg of a wheatstone bridge circuit, the other three legs of which are housed in the indicator unit at the ROS. When the bridge is unbalanced, current flow through a meter activates a motor which rotates a potentiometer to balance the bridge. The readout is a dial connected to the motor shaft.

Electrically, the dew point circuit is identical to the temperature circuit, with the exception that the resistance of the dew point element varies from 77.6 to 117.6 ohms over a temperature range of -80°F to 120°F. The dew point sensing element is surrounded by a lithium chloride solution.

2.4 Cloud Height Set AN/GMQ-13 (Figure 5) ⁶

The cloud height system consists of a projector and detector separated by 400-900 feet, and an indicator in the ROS. The projector puts out a light beam, chopped at a 120 Hz rate, rotating in a vertical plane at 5 revolutions per minute. As the light beam passes the horizontal, a vertical sweep circuit is triggered in the indicator, causing an electron beam to move from the bottom of a CRT to the top as the light beam angle varies from 0° to 90°. When light reflected from a cloud strikes the detector, the detector puts out a 120 Hz sine wave whose amplitude is proportional to the intensity of light detected. This 120 Hz signal is applied to the horizontal deflection plates of the indicator CRT, causing the trace to broaden out. The point at which the trace broadens out thus gives the angle at which a cloud is detected, and the angle is translated

TEMPERATURE / DEW POINT SET AN/TMQ-II

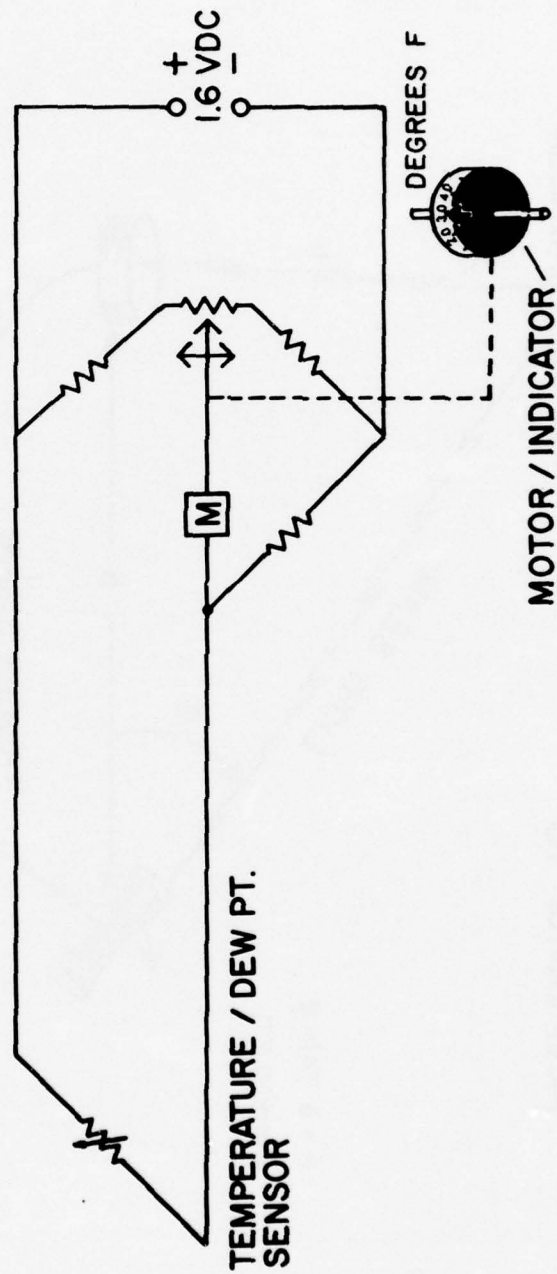


Figure 4

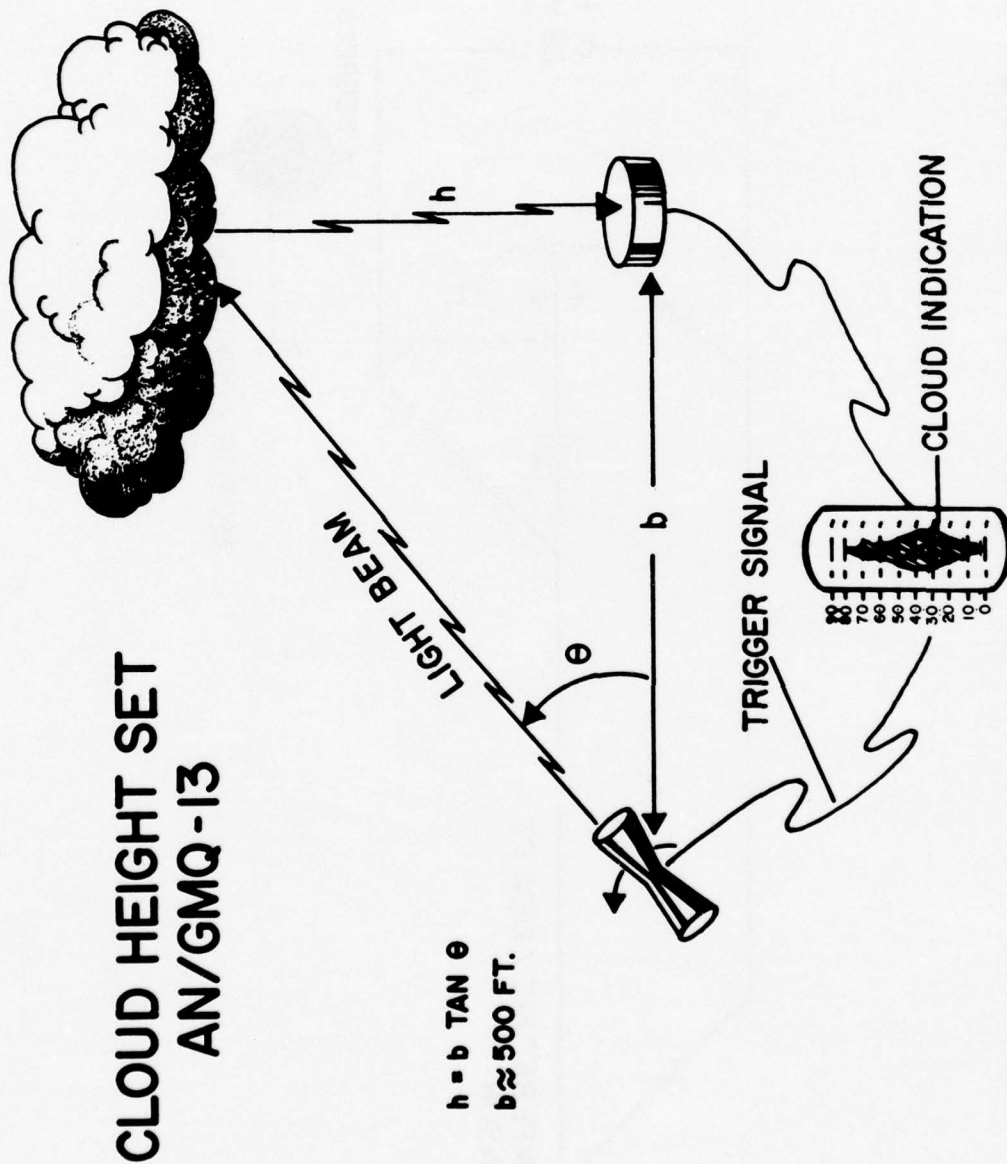


Figure 5

to cloud height by the formula $h = b \tan \theta$ where h = cloud height in feet, b = baseline in feet. This translation is performed by a human operator who looks up the cloud height in a table.

2.5 Deficiencies

- (1) Time Delays: The time lag from the instant a weather sensor detects a change to the instant the key air traffic controller is informed of it (via the electrowriter) can be as great as ten minutes. Dissemination of weather data to the outside world must wait until the ROS observer has punched an accurate paper tape on a teletypewriter.
- (2) Erroneous Data: It is possible for the ROS observer to make mistakes in preparing paper tapes, and the writing on an electrowriter receiver is often illegible (nines are read as zeros, etc.).
- (3) The ROS is expensive to maintain, since it requires sanitary facilities, heat and back-up power.
- (4) The ROS is crowded, since it houses several large indicators. Lack of space makes operation and maintenance difficult.
- (5) Cable Maintenance and Replacement Costs: The meteorological cable connecting sensors and indicators requires frequent trouble-shooting and repair, mainly due to the fact that the cable generally carries analog data. In an analog system, information is contained in the amplitude of the signal, which is highly sensitive to changes in cable parameters.

3.

APPROACHES TO DIGITIZATION AND DISSEMINATION

THE RADC FEASIBILITY MODEL

It now appears possible to eliminate most of the present system's shortcomings by performing A/D conversion at each sensor, doing away with the ROS, and installing a control and dissemination unit at the BWS. To examine methods for accomplishing this, the RADC feasibility model was developed.

3.1 Control and Processing Unit - Block Diagram Analysis (Figure 6).

The control and Processing unit is built around the INTEL Corporation Intellec 8 microprocessor development system with a model 8080 CPU. A 70-pin cable from the interface card slot of the Intellec 8 connects to the interface card file which houses the logic to accept and condition data from all sensors in the system. The circuitry for each sensor is mounted on its own 4" x 5" card, providing a high degree of modularity at the cost of some extra components. These interface modules receive their data over twisted pairs from the data transmitters colocated with the sensors.

3.1.1 Wind Interface

The wind speed signal appears at the interface module as a delta-sigma modulated bit stream, which can be treated as repetition rate modulation with a maximum frequency of 255 Hz. The interface module counts incoming pulses for one second, then interrupts the processor and sets a flag (one bit of port 9) by raising WSF. The processor reads the accumulated count from port 8, automatically resetting the flag and clearing the count, and the process is allowed to repeat.

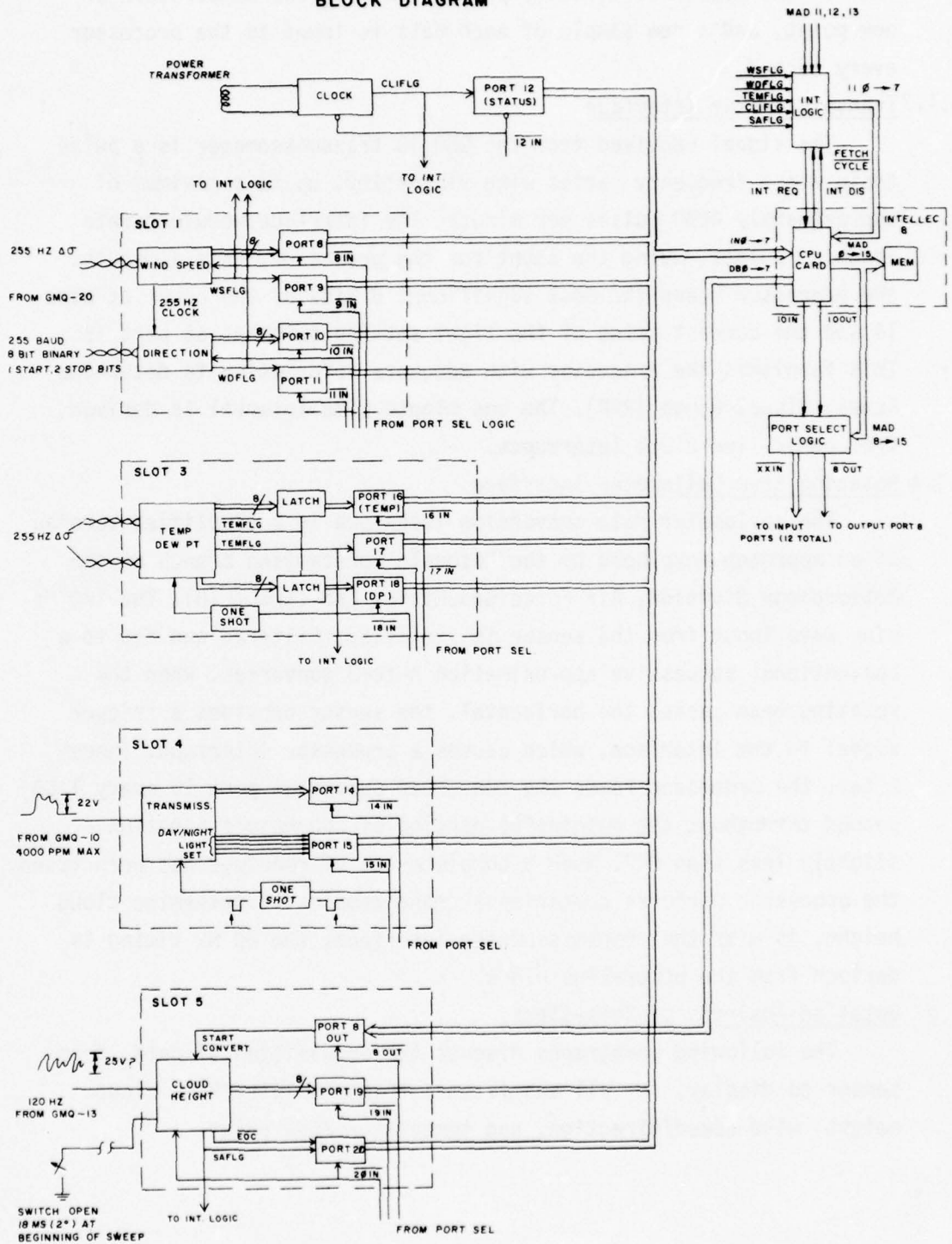
The wind direction signal is a continuous stream of 8 bit binary numbers each representing an instantaneous value of wind direction, each having its own start and stop bits. The data rate is 255 bits per second. Each time the interface module has received a complete 8 bit byte with stop bits, it interrupts the processor and sets one bit of port 11 as status flag by raising WDF. The processor then reads the data byte from port 10, resetting the flag. Thus, the processor receives approximately 25 samples of wind direction data per second.

3.1.2 Temperature/Dew Point Interface

The temperature/dew point signals received are identical to the wind speed signals and are handled in the same way. The repetition

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Fig. 6 - CONTROL & PROCESSING UNIT
BLOCK DIAGRAM



rate of the signal is directly proportional to the temperature or dew point, and a new sample of each data is input to the processor every second.

3.1.3 Transmissometer Interface

The signal received from the GMQ-10 transmissometer is a pulse train whose frequency varies with visibility, up to a maximum of approximately 4000 pulses per minute. The interface module counts incoming pulses, saving the count for the processor. Once a minute, the processor reads the most significant 8 bits of the count at port 14 and the current value of the light setting switches at port 15. This furnishes the processor with adequate information to determine Runway Visual Range (RVR). The one minute time interval is derived from power-line clock interrupts.

3.1.4 Rotating Beam Ceilometer Interface

The ceilometer data conversion technique is a simplified version of an approach developed by the Mesoscale Forecasting Branch of the Meteorology Division, Air Force Geophysics Lab (AFGL/LYU). The 120 Hz sine wave input from the sensor is rectified, filtered and fed to a conventional successive approximation A-to-D converter. When the rotating beam passes the horizontal, the sensor provides a trigger signal to the interface, which causes a processor interrupt. Thereafter, the processor reads the converter output at port 19 every 1/60 second throughout the meaningful portion of the beam's rotation - slightly less than 90°. When a complete set of readings has been taken, the processor performs comparisons among samples to determine cloud height. As with the transmissometer interface, the 60 Hz timing is derived from the power-line clock.

3.2 Detailed Analysis of Subsystems:

The following paragraphs discuss the acquisition of data, from sensor to display, for all subsystems: transmissivity/RVR, cloud height, wind speed/direction, and temperature/dew point.

3.2.1 Transmissivity/RVR

Figure 7 is a schematic diagram of the transmissometer interface module. In the feasibility model, no signal conditioning unit is added to the transmissometer. Rather, the signal normally fed to the indicator at the ROS is applied directly to the interface module, where the pulses are clipped and reshaped by Q₁ and U₁. If necessary or desirable in a future system, Q₁ and U₁ could be colocated with the transmissometer at the other end of the cable and followed by a line driver. Figure 7 shows the pulse at the input to the interface module as it appears on an oscilloscope. U₁, a non-retriggerable one shot, puts out a 100 ms pulse, insuring against counting an input pulse more than once due to the pronounced overshoot and ringing present. (See figure 8, transmissometer interface timing).

U₂, 5 and 4 form a 12 bit counter, whose most significant 8 bits are fed to the processor's input port 14. Once per minute, the processor reads a byte of data from port 14 by placing a negative-going pulse on the 14IN port select line. The trailing edge of this pulse is fed to a one-shot (U₃) and used to clear the counters after the port has been read, preparing them to collect pulses for another one minute period. Since the maximum rate is 4000 pulses per minute (indicating maximum visibility), the highest possible count in the most significant 8 bits of the counter will be 250.

S1 through S4 perform the functions of the light setting switches on the FMN-1 computer and the day/night switch in the control tower. It will be seen from the transmissometer software flow chart (figure 9) and the program listing (figure 10) that the processor reads the switches at port 15 every time it reads a byte of visibility data from port 14, and uses the switch setting data to decide which look-up table to get runway visual range (RVR) from. For simplicity, the feasibility model uses 4 look-up tables, corresponding to 4 possible

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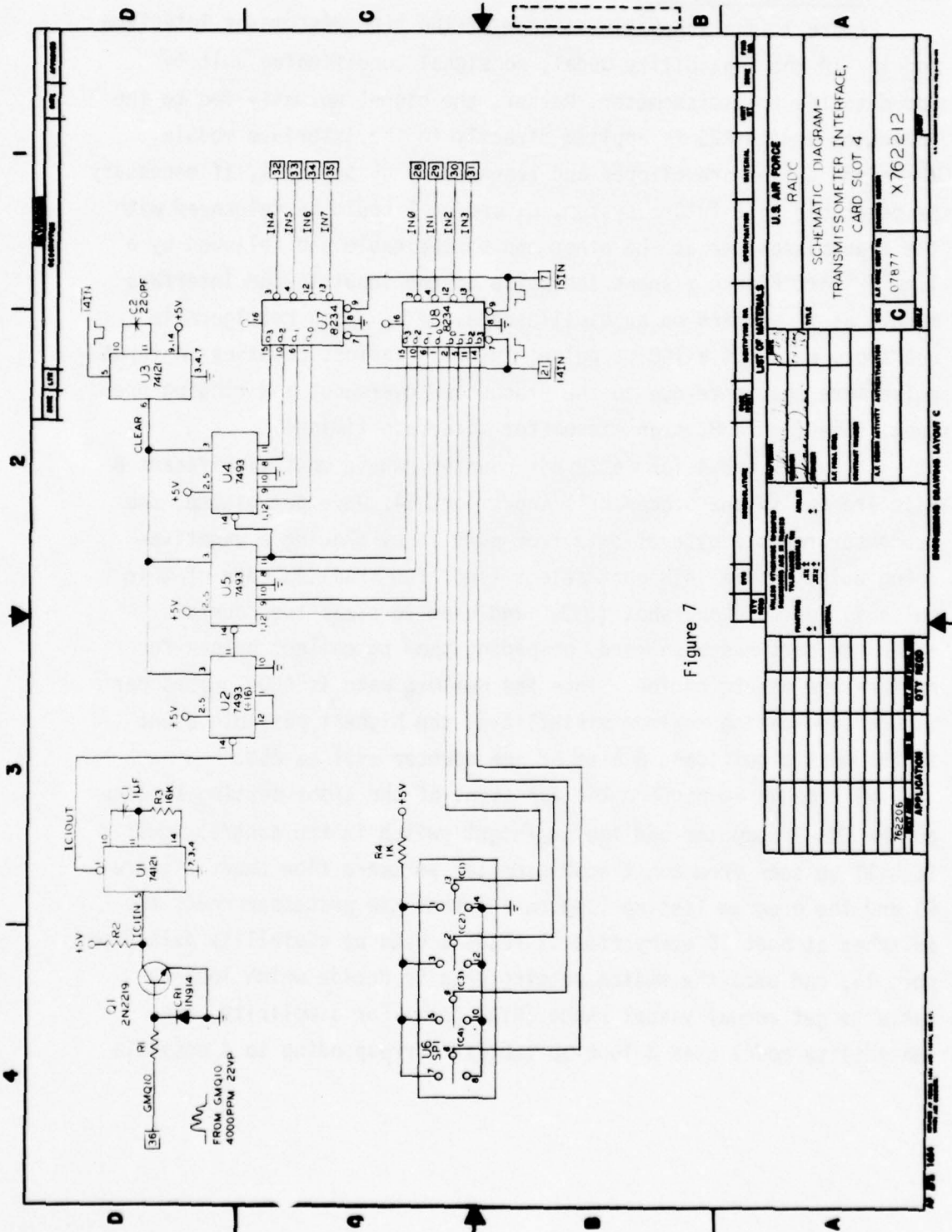
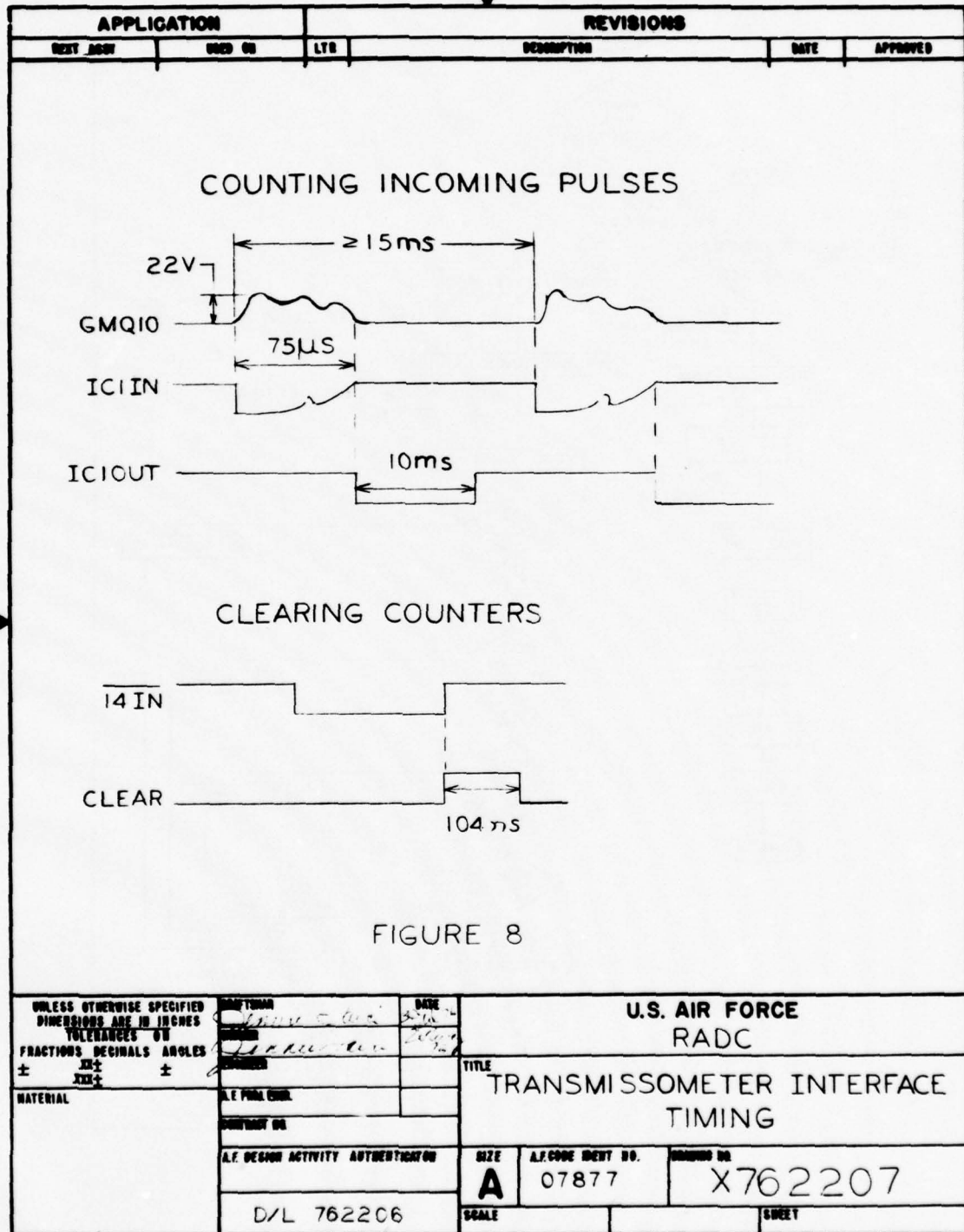


Figure 7

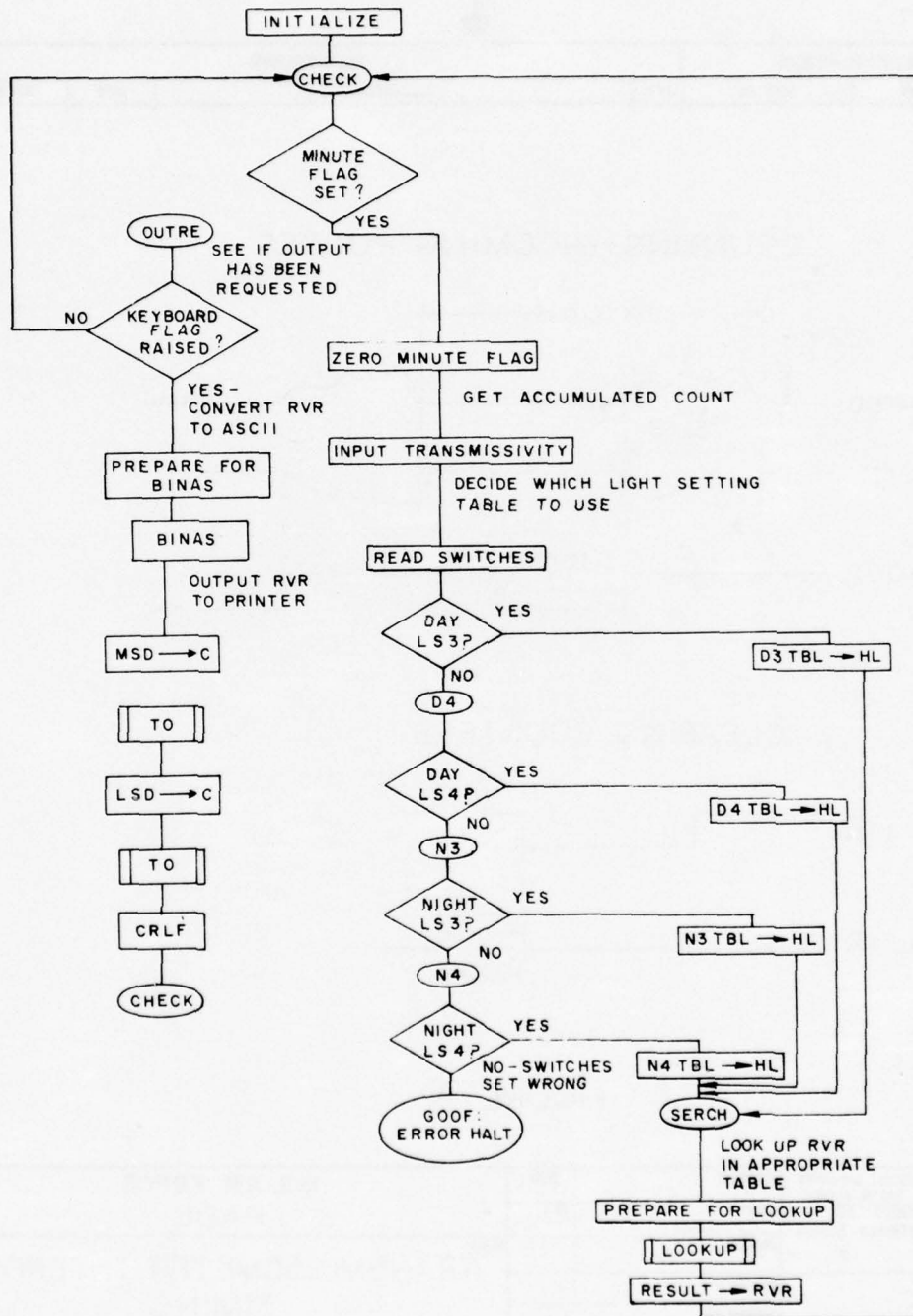
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SCHEMATIC DIAGRAM-		TRANSMISSOMETER INTERFACE,	
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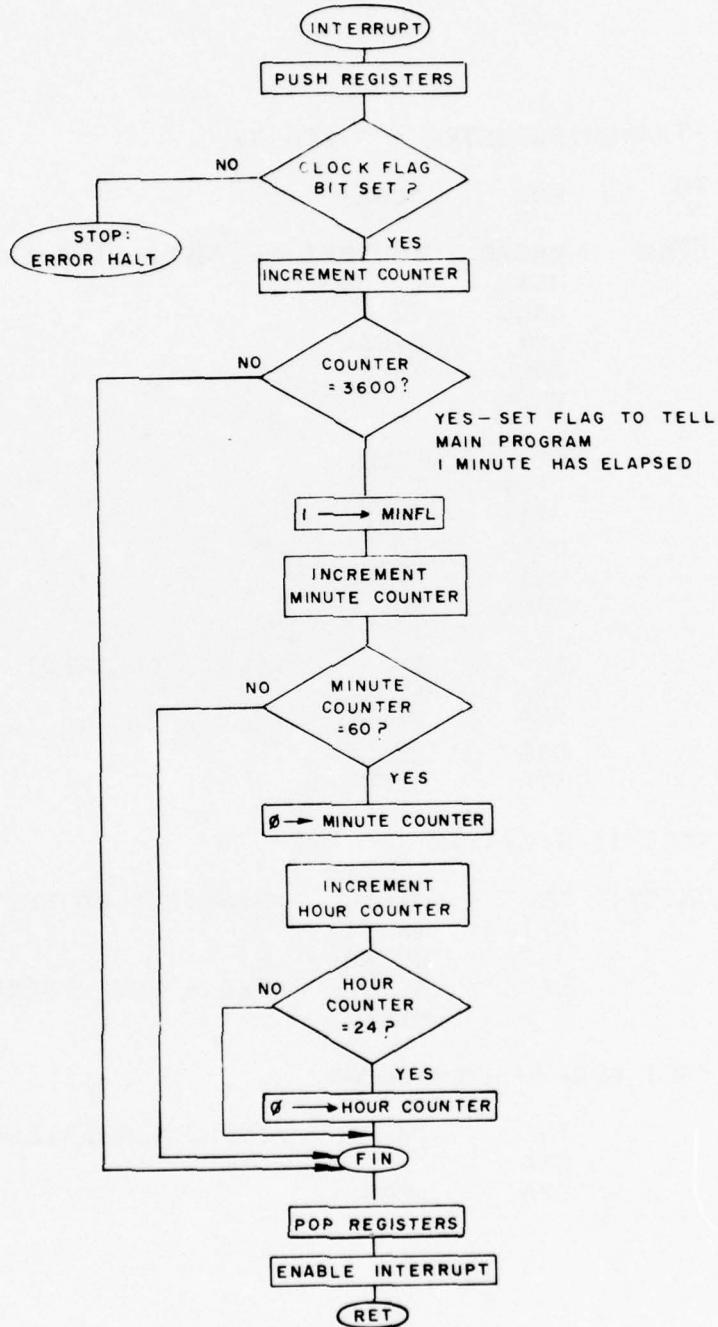


TRANSMISSOMETER FLOW CHART

Fig. 9



SERVICE CLOCK PULSE INTERRUPT



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;TRANSMISSOMETER - 3 FEB 76

3C3A	TO	EQU	3C3AH	
	CRLF	MACRO		;OUTPUT CAR RET, LINE FEED
		MVI	C,0DH	
		CALL	TO	
		MVI	C,0AH	
		CALL	TO	
		ENDM		
0000		ORG	400H	
		CRLF		
0400	0E0D	MVI	C,0DH	
0402	CD3A3C	CALL	TO	
0405	0E0A	MVI	C,0AH	
0407	CD3A3C	CALL	TO	
040A	DB0E	IN	14	;CLEAR COUNTER
040C	AF	XRA	A	
040D	327300	STA	MINFL	;CLEAR MINUTE FLAG & COUNTER
0410	327600	STA	BINCT	
0413	327700	STA	BINCT+1	
				;SEE IF 1 MINUTE HAS ELAPSED
0416	3A7300	CHECK: LDA	MINFL	;MINUTE FLAG SET?
0419	FE01	CPI	1H	
041B	C26A04	JNZ	OUTRE	
041E	AF	XRA	A	;YES - RESET MINUTE FLAG
041F	327300	STA	MINFL	
				;GET ACCUMULATED COUNT
0422	DB0E	IN	14	;INPUT TRANSMISSIVITY
0424	2F	CMA		
0425	327800	STA	TRANS	

Figure 10

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DECIDE WHICH LIGHT SETTING TABLE TO USE

0428 DB0F		IN	15	;READ LIGHT SETTING SWITCHES
042A FE00		CPI	0H	;DAY LS 3?
042C C23504		JNZ	D4	
042F 217900		LXI	H,D3TEL	;PREPARE TO SEARCH DAY 3 TABLE
0432 C35704		JMP	SEARCH	
0435 FE01	D4:	CPI	01H	;DAY LS 4?
0437 C24004		JNZ	N3	
043A 217F00		LXI	H,D4TEL	
043D C35704		JMP	SEARCH	
0440 FE03	N3:	CPI	00H	;NIGHT LS 3?
0442 C24E04		JNZ	N4	
0445 218500		LXI	H,N3TEL	
0448 C35704		JMP	SEARCH	
044B FE09	N4:	CPI	09H	;NIGHT LS 4?
044D C25604		JNZ	GOOF	
0450 218E00		LXI	H,N4TEL	
0452 C35704		JMP	SEARCH	
0456 76	GOOF:	HLT		;SWITCHES SET WRONG

LOOK UP RVR IN APPROPRIATE TABLE

0457 3A9700	SEARCH:	LDA	LNTH	;PREPARE TO LOOK UP RVR
045A 47		MOV	E,A	
045B 3A7800		LDA	TRANS	
045E 119100		LXI	D,OUTLS	
0461 0B9504		CALL	LOOKP	
0464 329300		STA	RVR	
0467 031604		JMP	CHECK	

SEE IF OUTPUT HAS BEEN REQUESTED

046A DE01	OUTRE:	IN	1	;OUTPUT REQUEST?
046C E601		ANI	1H	
046E C21604		JNZ	CHECK	
0471 DE00		IN	0	;YES - CLEAR TTY FLAG

CONVERT RVR TO ASCII

0473 3A9800		LDA	RVR	;PREPARE TO CONVERT TO ASCII
0476 219900		LXI	H,BFR	
0479 CDA604		CALL	FINAS	

;OUTPUT RVR TO PRINTER

047C 219A00		LXI	H,BFR+1 ;OUTPUT 2 DIGITS
047F 4E		MOV	C,M
0480 CD3A3C		CALL	TO
0483 23		INX	H
0484 4E		MOV	C,M
0485 CD3A3C		CALL	TO
		CRLF	
0488 0E0D		MVI	C,0DH
048A CD3A3C		CALL	TO
048D 0E0A		MVI	C,0AH
048F CD3A3C		CALL	TO
0492 C31604		JMP	CHECK
0495 BE	LOOKP:	CMP	M ;LOOK UP RVR IN TABLE
0496 DAA304		JC	MATCH
0499 05		DCR	B
049A C29E04		JNZ	NOTFN
049D 76		HLT	;NO MATCH FOUND
049E 23	NOTFN:	INX	H
049F 13		INX	D
04A0 C39504		JMP	LOOKP
04A3 EB	MATCH:	XCHG	
04A4 7E		MOV	A,M
04A5 C9		RET	
04A6 0664	BINAS:	MVI	B,100
04A8 CDB604		CALL	DIGIT
04AB 060A		MVI	B,10
04AD CDB604		CALL	DIGIT
04B0 0601		MVI	B,1
04B2 CDB604		CALL	DIGIT
04B5 C9		RET	
04B6 3630	DIGIT:	MVI	M,30H
04B8 90	DI0:	SUB	B
04B9 DAC004		JC	DI1
04BC 34		INR	M
04BD C3B304		JMP	DI0
04C0 80	DI1:	ADD	B
04C1 23		INX	H
04C2 C9		RET	

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;SERVICE CLOCK PULSE INTERRUPT

00403	ORG	28H	;COUNT A 60 HZ CLOCK PULSE
00025 C5	PUSH	B	;ON INTERRUPT
00029 D5	PUSH	D	
0002A E5	PUSH	H	
0002E F5	PUSH	PSW	
0002C DB0C	IN	12	
0002E F601	ANI	01H	;CLOCK BIT SET?
00030 C27200	JNZ	STOP	;NO - CHECK OTHER FLAGS
00033 2A7600	LHLD	BINCT	;YES - INCR BINARY COUNTER
00036 23	INX	H	
00037 227600	SHLD	BINCT	
0003A 217600	LXI	H,BINCT	;COUNTER = 3600?
0003D 7E	MOV	A,M	;LSB
0003E FE10	CPI	10H	
00040 C26C00	JNZ	FIN	
00043 23	INX	H	;MSB
00044 7E	MOV	A,M	
00045 FE0E	CPI	0EH	
00047 C26C00	JNZ	FIN	
0004A 3600	MVI	M,00H	;COUNTER = 3600 - 0 COUNTER
0004C 2B	DCX	I	
0004D 3600	MVI	M,00H	
0004F 217300	LXI	H,MINFL	;MINUTE FLAG
00052 3601	MVI	A,1H	
00054 217500	LXI	H,MIN	;INCR 24 HOUR CLOCK
00057 34	INR	M	
00058 7E	MOV	A,M	
00059 FE3C	CPI	3C	;MIN = 60?
0005B C26C00	JNZ	FIN	
0005E 3600	MVI	M,0	;YES - 0 MIN
00060 217400	LXI	H,HOUR	
00063 34	INR	M	
00064 7E	MOV	A,M	
00065 FE18	CPI	18	;HOUR = 24?
00067 C26C00	JNZ	FIN	
0006A 3600	MVI	M,0	;YES - 0 HOUR
0006C F1	POP	PSW	
0006D E1	POP	H	
0006E D1	POP	D	
0006F C1	POP	B	
00070 FB	EI		
00071 C9	RET		
00072 76	STOP:	HLT	

0073	MINEL:	DS	1	
0074	HOUR:	DS	1	
0075	MIN:	DS	1	
0076	FINCT:	DS	2	
0073	TRANS:	DS	1	
0079 437598AC	D3TEL:	DE	67,117,152,172,193,250	
007D C6FA				
007F 2C7598AC	D4TEL:	DE	44,117,152,172,193,250	
0083 C6FA				
0085 05245275	N3TEL:	DE	5,36,82,117,163,250	
0089 A8FA				
008E 03183E5F	N4TEL:	DE	3,24,62,95,143,250	
008F 94FA				
0091 000F1822	OUTLS:	DE	0,14,24,34,50,99	
0095 3263				
0097 06	LNTH:	DE	6	;LENGTH OF CHECK LIST
0098	RVP:	DS	1	
0099	BFR:	DS	3	
0000	END			

P=

switch settings. Each table has only 6 entries. In an operational system, there would be 6 tables with 20 entries each. The feasibility model processor is programmed to interpret the switch settings according to table 1.

S1	S2	S3	S4	Light Setting	Day/Night
0	0	0	0	3	Day
0	0	0	1	4	Day
1	0	0	0	3	Night
1	0	0	1	4	Night

Table 1, Interpretation of Switch Settings

The one minute time interval for the transmissometer interface module is derived in software from the power line clock of figure 11. The 60 Hz signal on the secondary winding of the system's 12 volt power supply is shaped into a square wave by Q₁ and IC. The leading edge of the square wave sets D flipflop IC 2, raising CLIFLG to interrupt the processor. Upon recognizing the interrupt, the processor reads port 12, which also clears the D flipflop. As shown in the flow chart, figure 9, the processor increments a counter in memory every time it is interrupted by a clock pulse, and sets a "minute flag" when the count has reached 3600, indicating that one minute has elapsed. Similarly, the clock keeps track of real time in hours and minutes. While this feature is not used by the transmissometer routine, it is useful for such purposes as automatically appending real time to messages.

In the absence of interrupts, the main transmissometer routine continuously checks the minute flag and the keyboard flag (discussed below). Upon finding the minute flag set the processor reads the visibility and switch settings from ports 14 and 15, and immediately looks up the RVR in the appropriate table, each 8-bit entry of which

Figure 11

is an actual RVR value, in hundreds of feet. This value is then moved to buffer location "RVR" until it is retrieved for display.

The display used in the feasibility model is the page printer of the teletypewriter console, and output to the printer is initiated by depressing any key on the keyboard, raising the keyboard flag. When the processor finds the keyboard flag set, it retrieves the RVR from the buffer, converts it to ASCII via sub-routine "BINAS" and outputs the results to the printer.

3.2.2 Cloud Height

Figure 12 is a schematic diagram of the cloud height interface module. As the ceilometer beam passes the horizontal, the sync switch located in the RBC opens for approximately 18 ms, raising SAF and causing an interrupt, which tells the processor to take a reading from the A/D converter for each of the next 180 real time cloud interrupts. Thereafter, each time a real time clock interrupt occurs the processor provides a "start convert" signal to the A/D converter by outputting a "one" on output port 8, then waits to read the cloud height data until "end of convert" (EOC) is turned on by the converter. After all 180 readings have been taken and saved, the list of readings is examined to find the largest. From its position in the list, cloud height can be obtained by going to a look-up table similar to that used to determine RVR.

3.2.3 Wind Speed and Direction

Figure 13 is a schematic diagram of the wind speed and direction transmitter, colocated with the sensor. The RC clock (U 3) provides 225 Hz clock signals for both the speed and direction sections. Due to the clock signal reconstruction technique used at the receiver (figure 14), clock accuracy and stability is not critical. The output of the wind direction sensor (90 volt line-to-line synchro transmitter) is fed to a modular synchro-to-digital converter, the Astrosystems

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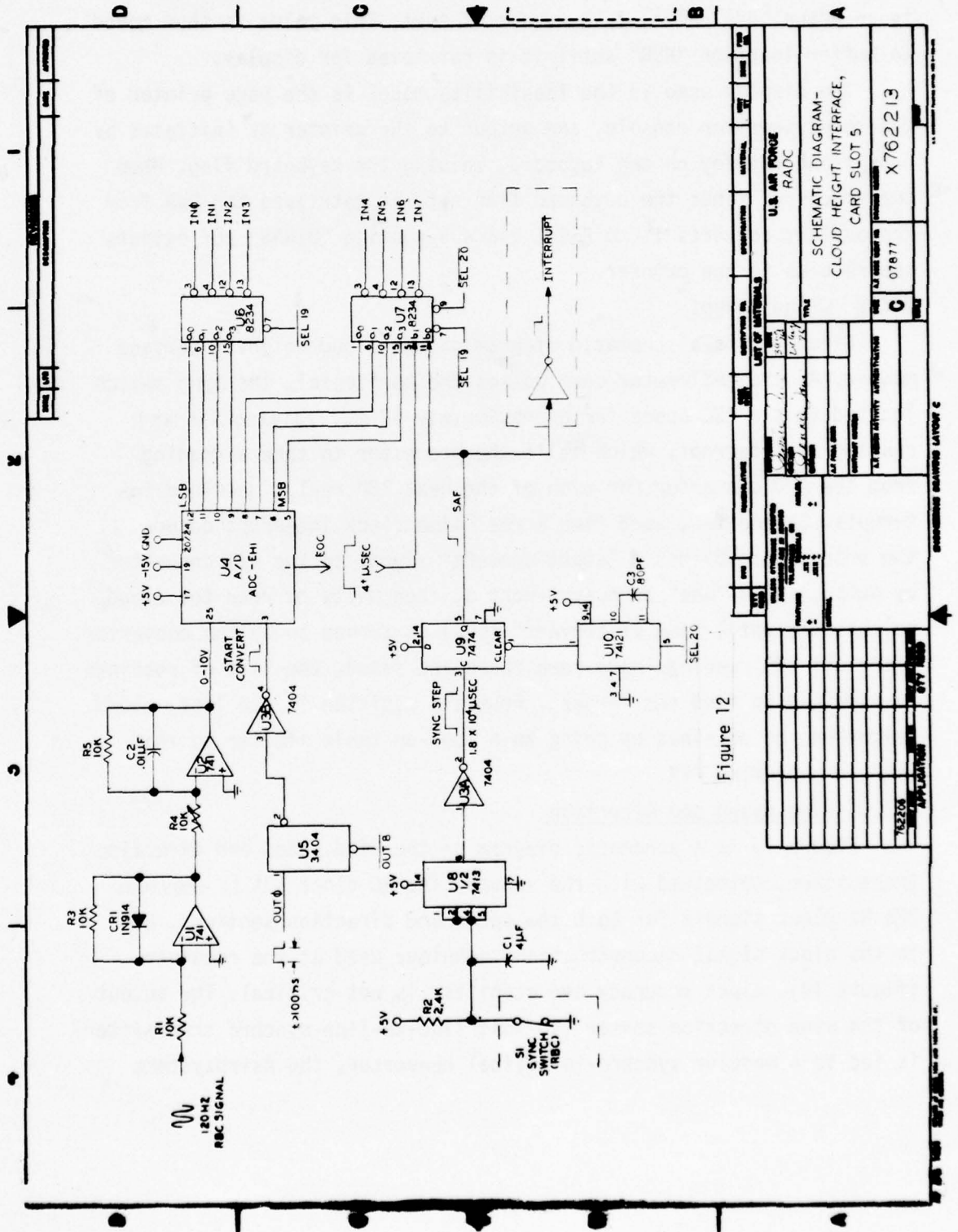


Figure 12

U.S. AIR FORCE			
SCHEMATIC DIAGRAM -			
CLOUD HEIGHT INTERFACE,			
CARD SLOT 5			
C			
07877			
X762213			

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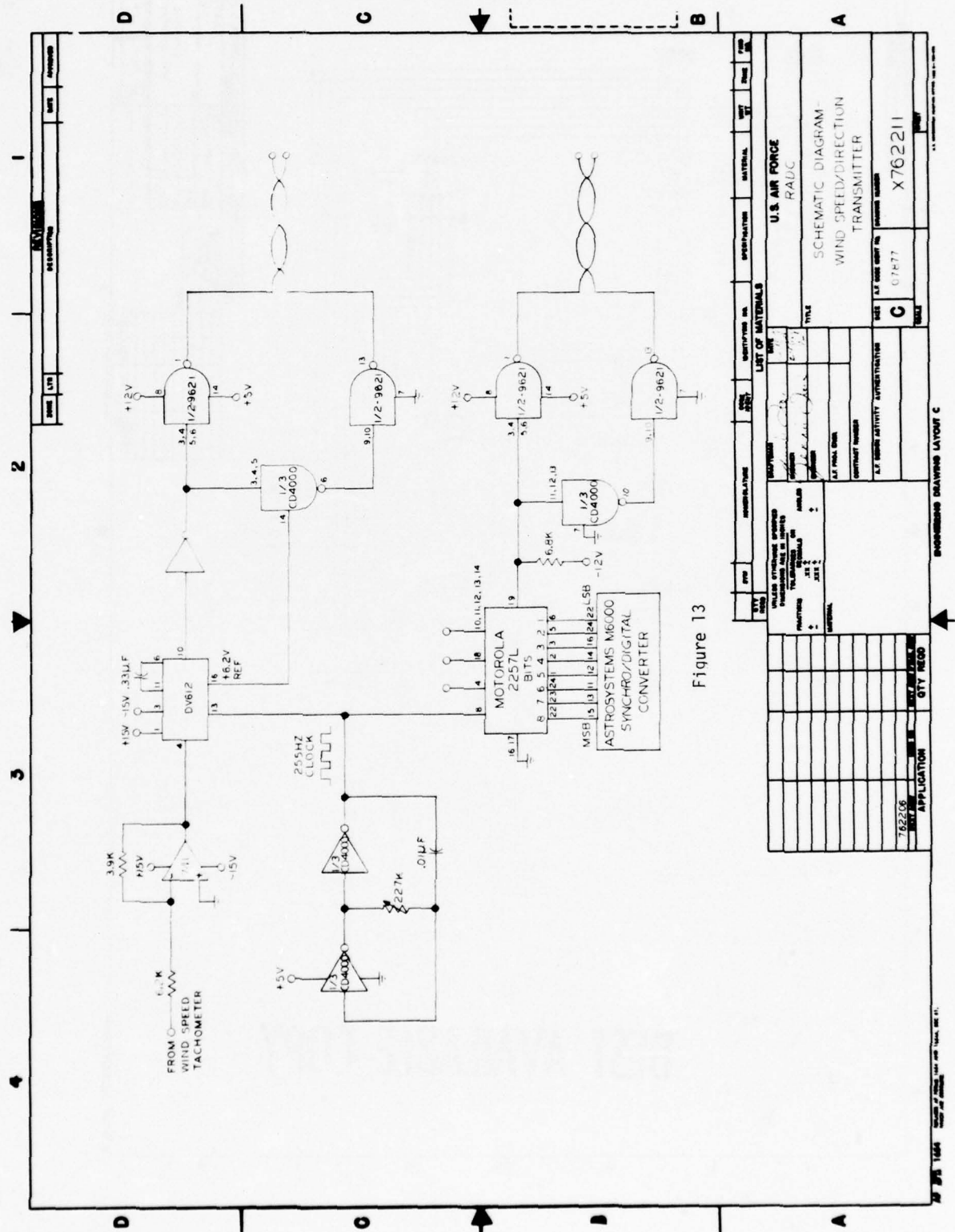


Figure 13

SYMBOL	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	UNIT	REMARKS
1/2-9621	COMPARATOR	2	PCB	
CD4000	DECODE	1	PCB	
DV612	DRIVER	1	PCB	
2257L	COUNTER	1	PCB	
M6000	CONVERTER	1	PCB	
255KHZ	CLOCK	1	PCB	
WIND SPEED	TACHOMETER	1	PCB	

U.S. AIR FORCE		RADC	
SCHEMATIC DIAGRAM - WIND SPEED/DIRECTION TRANSMITTER			
DATE	BY	CHKD	APPD
07/77			
C		X762211	

model M 6000. The parallel binary output of the converter is clocked out serially at a rate of 255 bits per second, with one start and two stop bits added to each reading. Thus there are 11 bits per character, including eight information bits, and approximately 25 characters are transmitted per second. The serial bit stream is fed to the twisted pair transmission line by a Fairchild 9621 differential line driver, and is received at the distant end by a 9620 line receiver. The differential line driver/receiver combination offers excellent protection from noise. The 9620 line receiver is specified to detect a signal of ± 500 millivolts in the presence of \pm volts of common mode noise. Since each digital reading consists of eight bits, there are $2^8 = 256$ counts per shaft revolution, providing an accuracy of about $\pm 1.5^\circ$, which is comfortably adequate for this application.

The wind speed converter (figure 15) incorporates a novel concept in digital conversion and transmission - delta sigma modulation. The heart of the delta sigma converter is a dual slope integrator whose inputs are (1) the negative DC voltage from the GMQ-20 tachometer and (2) an internally generated positive reference voltage that is switched in and out periodically. Referring to figure 15, assume that initially the analog switch is open, the output of the integrator is low, and the input and output of the D flipflop are low. Clock pulses are not being gated to the output line. Since the tachometer output is negative the integrator will integrate in the positive direction, charging the capacitor to the polarity shown. When the comparator input passes ground potential, the state of the flipflop output Q changes on the next clock pulse. This has two results: (1) clock pulses will be gated to the line driver until the flipflop changes state again, (2) the reference voltage is switched into the integrator, causing it to integrate in the negative direction. When the input to the comparator goes negative, the gate to the line driver is closed, the reference

The diagram illustrates a precision current source circuit, divided into four sections labeled 1, 2, 3, and 4. The circuit components and their interconnections are as follows:

- Section 1:** Contains a **REF VOLT** source and an **ANALOG SWITCH**. The **REF VOLT** source is connected to the **ANALOG SWITCH**. The **ANALOG SWITCH** is controlled by a **GATE** signal.
- Section 2:** Contains a current source I_2 and a resistor R_2 . The output of the **ANALOG SWITCH** is connected to I_2 , which is in series with R_2 .
- Section 3:** Contains a current source I_1 and a resistor R_1 . The output of R_2 is connected to I_1 , which is in series with R_1 .
- Section 4:** Contains a **V-TACH** input, a **CLOCK** input, a **LINE DRIVER**, and a **COMP** (comparator) block.

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- Section 4:** Contains a **V-TACH** input, a **CLOCK** input, a **LINE DRIVER**, and a **COMP** (comparator) block.

QUANTITY REQUIRED PER DRAWING NO.		SYN	DESCRIPTION	CODE IDENT	ORIGINATING NO	MATERIAL / SPECIFICATION	UNIT WT	ZONE	FOUND NO
			ALL UNLESS INDICATED OTHERWISE ARE IN INCHES FINISHED SURFACES UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED DIMENSIONS ARE IN INCHES DIMENSIONS ARE IN INCHES		PARTS LIST 1. 762206 2. 762210 3. 762211 4. 762212 5. 762213 6. 762214 7. 762215 8. 762216 9. 762217 10. 762218 11. 762219 12. 762220 13. 762221 14. 762222 15. 762223 16. 762224 17. 762225 18. 762226 19. 762227 20. 762228 21. 762229 22. 762230 23. 762231 24. 762232 25. 762233 26. 762234 27. 762235 28. 762236 29. 762237 30. 762238 31. 762239 32. 762240 33. 762241 34. 762242 35. 762243 36. 762244 37. 762245 38. 762246 39. 762247 40. 762248 41. 762249 42. 762250 43. 762251 44. 762252 45. 762253 46. 762254 47. 762255 48. 762256 49. 762257 50. 762258 51. 762259 52. 762260 53. 762261 54. 762262 55. 762263 56. 762264 57. 762265 58. 762266 59. 762267 60. 762268 61. 762269 62. 762270 63. 762271 64. 762272 65. 762273 66. 762274 67. 762275 68. 762276 69. 762277 70. 762278 71. 762279 72. 762280 73. 762281 74. 762282 75. 762283 76. 762284 77. 762285 78. 762286 79. 762287 80. 762288 81. 762289 82. 762290 83. 762291 84. 762292 85. 762293 86. 762294 87. 762295 88. 762296 89. 762297 90. 762298 91. 762299 92. 762300 93. 762301 94. 762302 95. 762303 96. 762304 97. 762305 98. 762306 99. 762307 100. 762308 101. 762309 102. 762310 103. 762311 104. 762312 105. 762313 106. 762314 107. 762315 108. 762316 109. 762317 110. 762318 111. 762319 112. 762320 113. 762321 114. 762322 115. 762323 116. 762324 117. 762325 118. 762326 119. 762327 120. 762328 121. 762329 122. 762330 123. 762331 124. 762332 125. 762333 126. 762334 127. 762335 128. 762336 129. 762337 130. 762338 131. 762339 132. 762340 133. 762341 134. 762342 135. 762343 136. 762344 137. 762345 138. 762346 139. 762347 140. 762348 141. 762349 142. 762350 143. 762351 144. 762352 145. 762353 146. 762354 147. 762355 148. 762356 149. 762357 150. 762358 151. 762359 152. 762360 153. 762361 154. 762362 155. 762363 156. 762364 157. 762365 158. 762366 159. 762367 160. 762368 161. 762369 162. 762370 163. 762371 164. 762372 165. 762373 166. 762374 167. 762375 168. 762376 169. 762377 170. 762378 171. 762379 172. 762380 173. 762381 174. 762382 175. 762383 176. 762384 177. 762385 178. 762386 179. 762387 180. 762388 181. 762389 182. 762390 183. 762391 184. 762392 185. 762393 186. 762394 187. 762395 188. 762396 189. 762397 190. 762398 191. 762399 192. 762400 193. 762401 194. 762402 195. 762403 196. 762404 197. 762405 198. 762406 199. 762407 200. 762408 201. 762409 202. 762410 203. 762411 204. 762412 205. 762413 206. 762414 207. 762415 208. 762416 209. 762417 210. 762418 211. 762419 212. 762420 213. 762421 214. 762422 215. 762423 216. 762424 217. 762425 218. 762426 219. 762427 220. 762428 221. 762429 222. 762430 223. 762431 224. 762432 225. 762433 226. 762434 227. 762435 228. 762436 229. 762437 230. 762438 231. 762439 232. 762440 233. 762441 234. 762442 235. 762443 236. 762444 237. 762445 238. 762446 239. 762447 240. 762448 241. 762449 242. 762450 243. 762451 244. 762452 245. 762453 246. 762454 247. 762455 248. 762456 249. 762457 25				

ENGINEERING DRAWING LAYOUT 8

voltage is switched out, and the process repeats itself.

Consider a length of time T that is quite long relative to the time constants $R_1 \times C$ and $R_2 \times C$. Define N_c to be the number of clock pulses that occur in time T and N_D to be the number of clock pulses that are gated out as data during time T. (In time T, the flipflop goes through many on-off cycles. It turns out that

$$\frac{N_D}{N_c} = \frac{R_2 \times V_{tach}}{R_1 \times V_{ref}}$$

In fact, component values are calculated so that $V_{ref} \times R_1 = V_{full\ scale}$ and

$$N_D = \frac{V_{tach}}{V_{full\ scale}}$$

There are apparent sources of error. However, one of the strengths of delta sigma modulation is that most of these errors can be eliminated or, in fact, tend to cancel themselves out. Although

$$\frac{N_D}{N_c} \quad \text{depends}$$

on the values of R_1 and R_2 , note that

$$\frac{N_D}{N_c} \quad \text{is actually proportional}$$

to the ratio $\frac{R_2}{R_1}$. It is reasonable to expect that a 5% change in the

resistance of R_2 brought about by environmental conditions would be accompanied by a like change in the value of R_1 . Notice that the value of the capacitor is a "don't care" since it does not appear in the equation for $\frac{N_D}{N_c}$

IC 2 of figure 13 is a Hybrid Systems DV 612, which contains all of the circuitry shown in figure 15 except C. In the receiving unit (figure 14) wind speed pulses are counted for a 1 second period similar to the transmissometer interface. However, the clock (IC 7) is synchronized by the incoming wind speed signal, eliminating the need for great accuracy and stability. the timing counter chain (U's 3,5,6)

(U's 3, 5, 6) interrupts the processor at every 256th clock pulse, and the processor reads a new byte of wind speed data.

The wind direction samples are received and serial-to-parallel converted by U 2, the Motorola Me 2259 terminal receiver (essentially the receiving half of a UART). The processor is interrupted to read a byte of data 25 times per second, every time a complete byte with stop bits has been received.

3.2.4 Temperature/Dew Point

The temperature/dew point interface unit shown in figure 16 will not be discussed in detail, since it is very similar to the wind speed interface. However, the converter shown in figure 17, colocated with the sensor, bears some discussion. An effort was made to digitize the output of the TMQ-11 sensor, with unfavorable results. The temperature sensing thermistor in the TMQ-11 varies from 77.6 ohms to 119.6 ohms as temperature varies from -80°F to 130°F . This is a change of 42 ohms for a temperature range of 210°F , or .2 ohms per degree F. One way to get a signal out of the sensor is to drive a constant current through it so that the voltage across the thermistor varies in proportion to its resistance. However, the current must be kept small to prevent heating of the thermistor. If a constant current of 5 ma is used, the output signal will swing $5 \times 42 = 210$ millivolts over the temperature range of interest. To drive a delta sigma modulator or any other reasonable modulation scheme with any degree of accuracy requires an input signal swing of a few volts. To get a signal of 5 volts, we would need an amplifier with a gain of $5 \text{ volts} / 210 \text{ millivolts} = 24$.

Designing such an amplifier with sufficient accuracy would be extremely difficult, if not impossible. While it might be possible to digitize the output of the TMQ-11, the system would be expensive, inaccurate, and difficult to calibrate.

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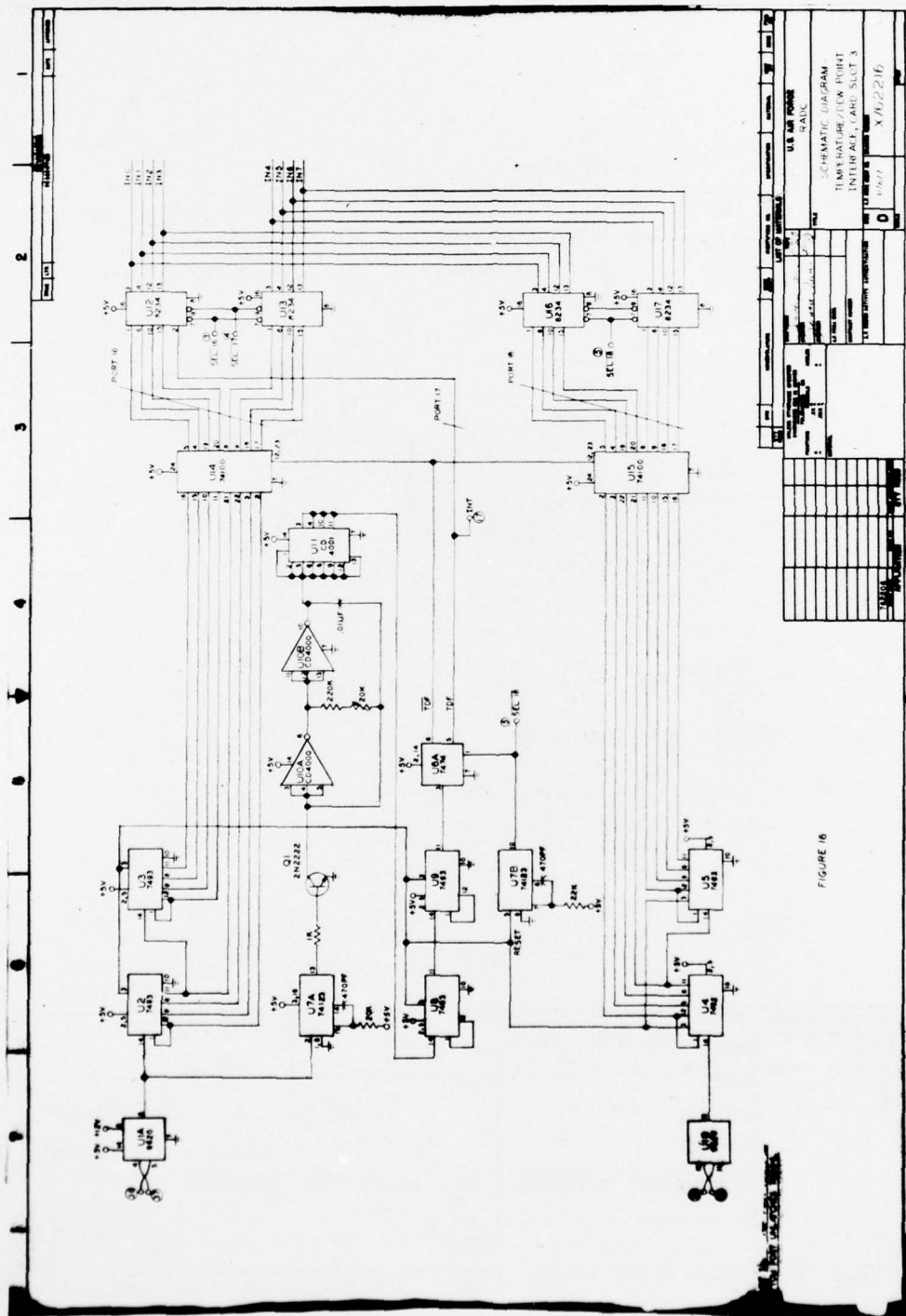
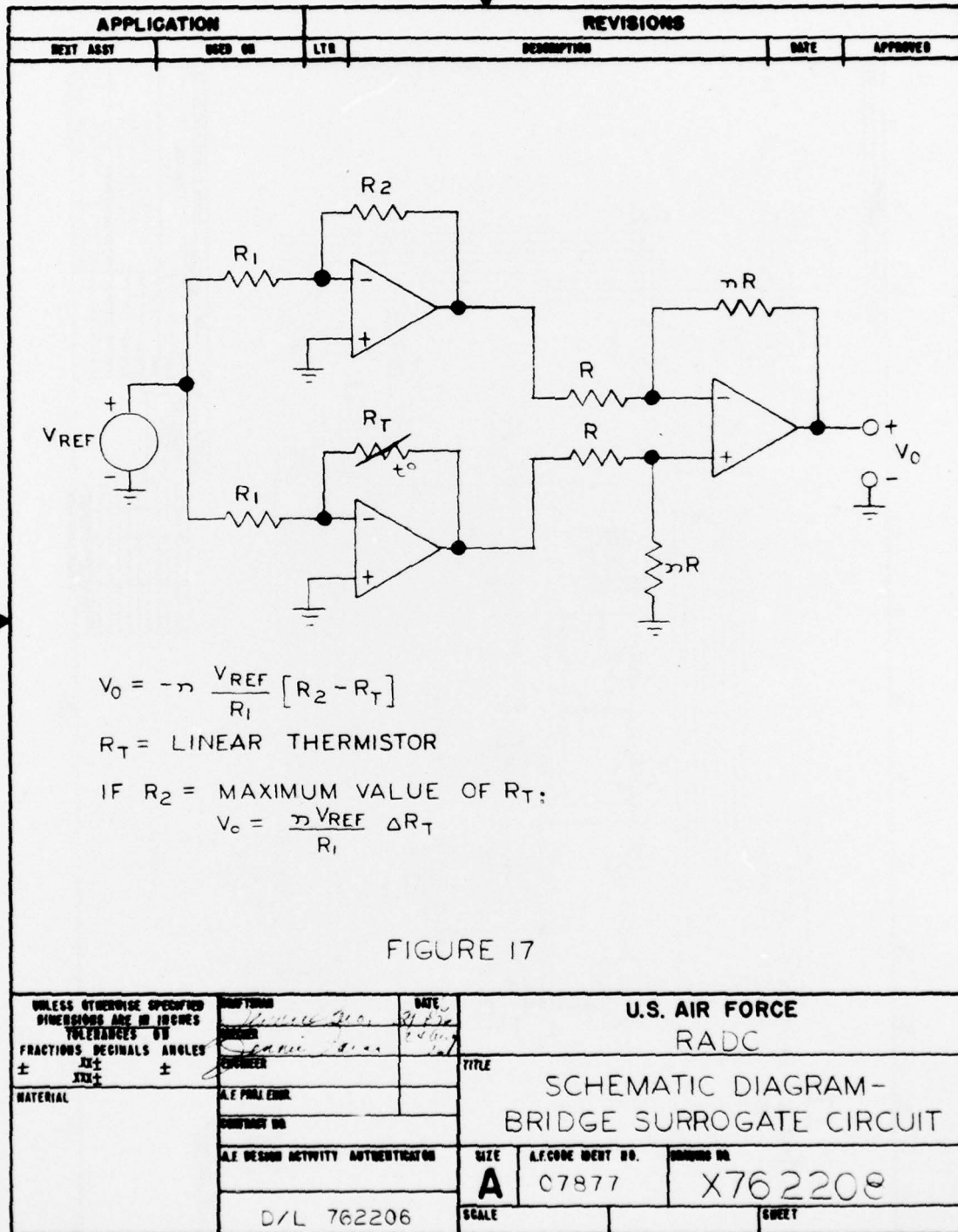


FIGURE 16

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A better approach appears to be replacement of the TMQ-11 or replacement of the sensing elements in the TMQ-11. A likely replacement for the TMQ-11 is the temperature/dew point sensor designed by National Weather Service for their Remote Automated Meteorological Observation Station (RAMOS). The RAMOS sensor uses sensing elements from Yellow Springs Instrument Company - linear thermistors with a resistance change in the neighborhood of 130 ohms per degree C. A sensor of this type can be made part of a bridge-surrogate circuit* as in figure 17.

An operating model that we built is shown in figure 18. The purpose of the forward-biased IN 914 diodes is to provide a V_{ref} of 2 diode drops, about 1.4 volts. This circuit, which proved to be extremely accurate, could be used with the component values shown for either the temperature or the dew point thermistor. The output is fed to a delta-sigma modulator for transmission to the temperature/dew point interface unit.

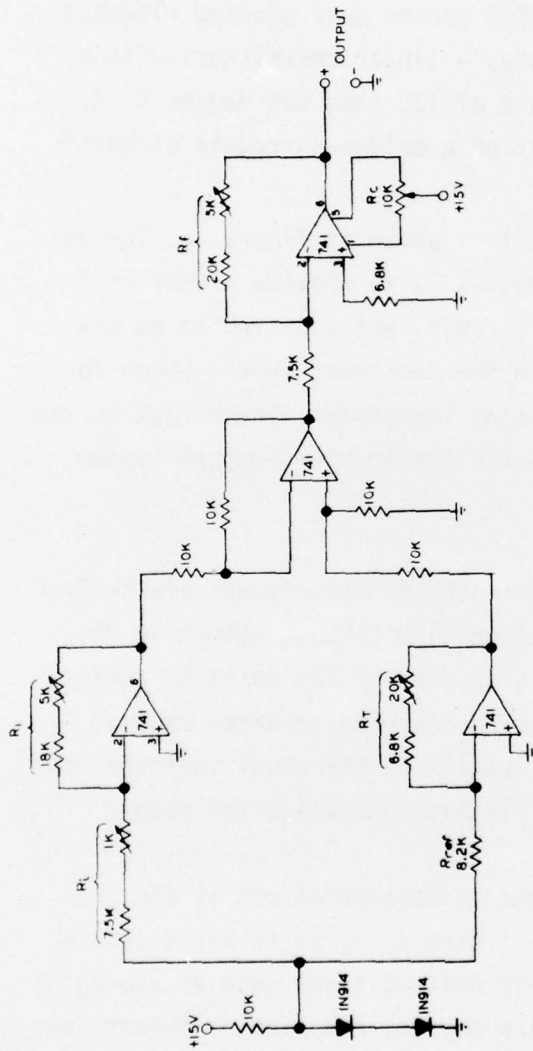
4. CONCLUSIONS

The goals of automation, as addressed in this study, are twofold: first, to improve efficiency and reliability through automatic dissemination and display; second, to save development costs by retaining the existing sensors while reducing cable maintenance expense by replacing the existing cables. The results of the study indicate that the first of these goals can be completely met, while the second can be only partially achieved.

The most promising aspect of the automation effort is the processing, dissemination and display of data after it is digitized. A computer is good at performing easily defined tasks such as averaging a group of data samples, transcribing digital data into a format, and transmitting a message when queried. A microprocessor can perform all

* For a detailed description of bridge-surrogate circuits, see Chapter VII of (8).

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CALIBRATION:

SET $R_i = R_{ref}$ WITH DIGITAL MULTIMETER.

SET A₁ = 19,582,350.

SET R1=19.582.350 ADJUST R_C FOR QVDC OUTPUT.

SET $R_4 = 10\text{k}\Omega$ ADJUST R_5 FOR 0VDC OUTPUT.

REPLACE R₇ WITH YELLOW SPRINGS LINEAR THERMISTOR.
SET R₇ = 7503.6611 ADJUSTING FOR -10VDC OUTPUT.

Figure 18

[illegible]

all of these roles.

Digitizing the signal at the sensor to retain the existing sensor and permit replacement of cables was more successful with some sensors than others. In the instances where digitization at the sensor does not appear promising, it is generally because the existing sensor can not be functionally isolated from the existing indicator.

Sensors that fall into this category are the AN/GMQ-13 Rotating Beam Ceilometer, the AN/TMQ-11 Temperature/Dew Point Sensor, and the wind direction segment of the AN/GMQ-20 Wind Instrument. There doesn't appear to be any convenient way to digitize the RBC detector output signal at the sensor, because the digitization process requires timing from the computer (see para 3.2.2). It does not appear practical to digitize the output of the AN/TMQ-11 sensing unit, primarily because the sensing elements resistance variation over the temperature range is inadequate. A better approach would be adoption of a new sensor such as that used in the National Weather Service's RAMOS system (see para 3.2.4). The synchro-to-digital conversion technique used for the wind direction portion of the AN/GMQ-20 was partially successful, in that the signal produced by the wind direction converter can be transmitted over any type of cable. However, synchro-to-digital converters are fairly costly (\$300-400), and are normally specified for operation over commercial temperature range, necessitating some sort of temperature control for this application.

For sensors that can be functionally isolated from their indicators, digitization at the sensor seems feasible. Sensors of this type are the transmissometer and the wind speed segment of the AN/GMQ-20. Replacement of the transmissometers cable could be made possible quite easily by moving two or three components of the transmissometer interface out to the transmissometer as discussed in para 3.2.1. The wind speed sensor presents no special problems, since the

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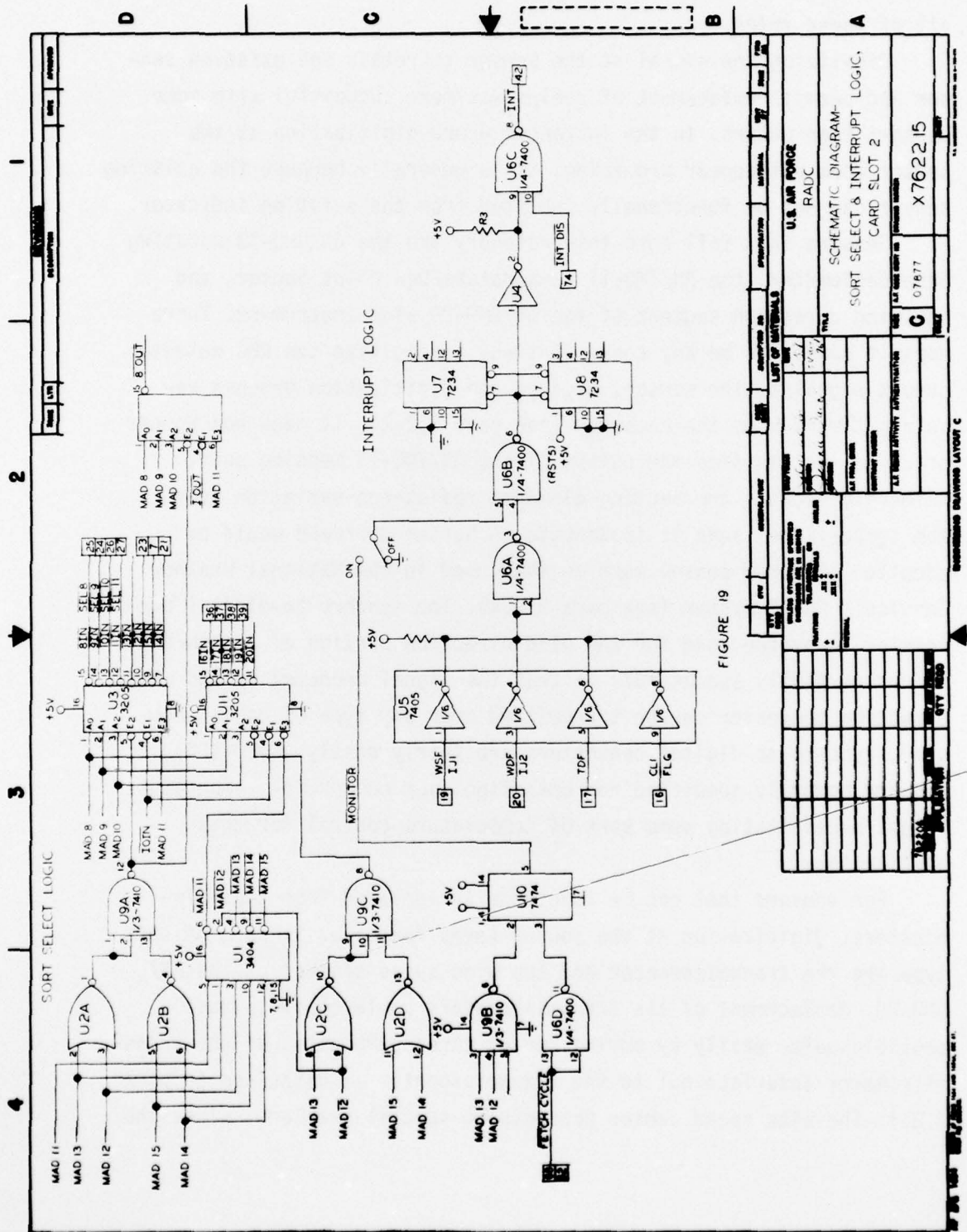


FIGURE 19

wind speed converter colocated with the sensor is simple and inexpensive, and its delta-sigma modulated output signal can be transmitted over any type of cable.

Perhaps the portion of the effort that shows the greatest promise of success is the elimination of the AN/FMN-1 Computer. The description of the transmissivity/RVR subsystem in para 3.2.1 shows that a microprocessor and a small amount of memory can do the job of the AN/FMN-1. In fact, this is a text-book microprocessor application that should result in significant cost savings.

The results of this study indicate that an automated, microprocessor-based system is feasible, and would provide major improvements, particularly in the area of dissemination and display. While it appears that some of the existing sensors could be made part of an automated system, the questions of whether to replace sensors or buy or develop new ones should be referred to AFGL/LYU, where these questions are being investigated further.

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METRIC SYSTEM

BASE UNITS:

Quantity	Unit	SI Symbol	Formula
length	metre	m	...
mass	kilogram	kg	...
time	second	s	...
electric current	ampere	A	...
thermodynamic temperature	kelvin	K	...
amount of substance	mole	mol	...
luminous intensity	candela	cd	...

SUPPLEMENTARY UNITS:

plane angle	radian	rad	...
solid angle	steradian	sr	...

DERIVED UNITS:

Acceleration	metre per second squared	...	m/s
activity (of a radioactive source)	disintegration per second	...	(disintegration)/s
angular acceleration	radian per second squared	...	rad/s
angular velocity	radian per second	...	rad/s
area	square metre	...	m
density	kilogram per cubic metre	...	kg/m
electric capacitance	farad	F	A·s/V
electrical conductance	siemens	S	A/V
electric field strength	volt per metre	...	V/m
electric inductance	henry	H	V·s/A
electric potential difference	volt	V	W/A
electric resistance	ohm	...	V/A
electromotive force	volt	V	W/A
energy	joule	J	N·m
entropy	joule per kelvin	...	J/K
force	newton	N	kg·m/s
frequency	hertz	Hz	(cycle)/s
illuminance	lux	lx	lm/m
luminance	candela per square metre	...	cd/m
luminous flux	lumen	lm	cd·sr
magnetic field strength	ampere per metre	...	A/m
magnetic flux	weber	Wb	V·s
magnetic flux density	tesla	T	Wb/m
magnetomotive force	ampere	A	...
power	watt	W	J/s
pressure	pascal	Pa	N/m
quantity of electricity	coulomb	C	A·s
quantity of heat	joule	J	N·m
radiant intensity	watt per steradian	...	W/sr
specific heat	joule per kilogram-kelvin	...	J/kg·K
stress	pascal	Pa	N/m
thermal conductivity	watt per metre-kelvin	...	W/m·K
velocity	metre per second	...	m/s
viscosity, dynamic	pascal-second	...	Pa·s
viscosity, kinematic	square metre per second	...	m/s
voltage	volt	V	W/A
volume	cubic metre	...	m
wavenumber	reciprocal metre	...	(wave)/m
work	joule	J	N·m

SI PREFIXES:

Multiplication Factors	Prefix	SI Symbol
1 000 000 000 000 = 10 ¹²	tera	T
1 000 000 000 = 10 ⁹	giga	G
1 000 000 = 10 ⁶	mega	M
1 000 = 10 ³	kilo	k
100 = 10 ²	hecto*	h
10 = 10 ¹	deka*	da
0.1 = 10 ⁻¹	deci*	d
0.01 = 10 ⁻²	centi*	c
0.001 = 10 ⁻³	milli	m
0.000 001 = 10 ⁻⁶	micro	μ
0.000 000 001 = 10 ⁻⁹	nano	n
0.000 000 000 001 = 10 ⁻¹²	pico	p
0.000 000 000 000 001 = 10 ⁻¹⁵	femto	f
0.000 000 000 000 000 001 = 10 ⁻¹⁸	atto	a

* To be avoided where possible.

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